DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 410 837 HE 030 411

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TITLE	External Degrees in the Information Age. Legitimate Choices. Series on Higher Education.
INSTITUTION	American Council on Education, Washington, DC.
ISBN	ISBN-0-89774-997-9
PUB DATE	1997-00-00
NOTE	239p.; This guide is an updated version of "The Adult's Learner's Guide to Alternative and External Degree Programs" and "Diploma Mills: Degrees of Fraud."
AVAILABLE FROM	Oryx Press, P.O. Box, 33889, Phoenix, AZ 85067-3889; phone: 800-279-6799; fax: 800-279-4663 ($34.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - General (050) -- Reference Materials - Directories/Catalogs (132)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Standards; Access to Education; *Accreditation (Institutions); Adult Education; Degree Requirements; Degrees (Academic); *Distance Education; *External Degree Programs; Higher Education; Home Study; Independent Study; *Institutional Evaluation; State Regulation
IDENTIFIERS	*Diploma Mills

ABSTRACT

This guide for adults who are seeking external degrees offers guidance for selecting such a program and a listing of 140 accredited programs. The five chapters of part 1 provide an introduction to external degree opportunities. Chapter 1 briefly considers the multiple ways in which today's adults can continue their education. Chapter 2 explains how external degree programs operate including such aspects as assessment of prior learning, contract learning, distance education, and nontraditional degree programs. Chapter 3 stresses the importance of institutional accreditation, describes types of accreditation and accrediting bodies, and discusses state regulation of colleges and universities. A table summarizes relevant statutes by state. Chapter 4 considers the problem of diploma mills, their characteristics, their promotional tactics, their policies, external degree program abuses, and accreditation claims. Chapter 5 provides specific guidelines for choosing an external degree program. Part 2 lists accredited programs by state and institution. Listings usually provide: institution name and address/phone numbers, degrees offered, program mission, accreditation, admission requirements, required campus time, tuition and fees, credit awards for prior learning, and a description. Indexes include a subject index for part 1, an index to institutions by fields of study, and an alphabetical list of institutions.(DB)

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